

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace Paragraph 0018 with the following paragraph:

Figs. 5 and 5A show ~~Fig. 5~~ is a detailed view of the seating mechanism between two strands of the device of this invention.

Please replace Paragraph 0026 with the following paragraph:

Fig. 5 shows one configuration for releasably connecting strands 30, 60. In Fig. 5, strand 60 has been moved slightly out of seating channel ~~140~~ 170 which forms an arcuate surface having a partial circumference of not more than approximately 190 degrees at the end of strand 30. This is more clearly depicted in Fig. 5A, which is a cross section of the strands shown in Fig. 5 viewed at plane A – A'. As strand 60 is moved slightly up or down with respect to the plane of the drawing, it will have sufficient space to pass by seating channel 170 without engaging it, in the manner of a safety pin. When it is desired to reconnect strands 30, 60, the strands will be squeezed to bring the respective ends in proximity and, with a slight upward or downward movement, as described above, strand 60 may be brought into a position in which the natural extension force being applied by grasping ring 20 causes the end of strand 60 to become and remain seated within seating channel ~~140~~ 170. It will be understood by persons of skill in the art that the specific embodiments shown and described are not the sole means for practicing this invention. For example, although seating of strands 30, 60 have been described as applying a force to urge strand 60 outwardly with respect to strand 30, strands 30, 60 could be aligned and seated such that the force urged strand 60 inwardly with respect to strand 30, and this, and other embodiments, would fall within the spirit and scope of the invention, which is limited only by the following claims: